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624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100
page 2

INSIDE
School Pages
Pages 6 & 7

INSIDE
Area Sports
Pages 8 & 9

INSIDE
Accelerated Readers
Page 14

The Elba Clipper

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 41

50 CENTS

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1997

1 SECTION, 14 PAGES

TWO TEACHERS MAY LOSE JOBS

School board discusses testing and required pay raises

By Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board met last Thursday evening, during the heavy rain, but they were snug and dry in the central office board room, atop the hill overlooking the school complex.

Board members approved a termination letter to non-tenured personnel; approved a leave of absence; paid the monthly bills; adopted a school calendar for the next school year; heard a report on the status of ongoing construction projects and discussed the "guts" of a proposed compromise in the "salary matrix" debate.

Vice Chairperson Aubrey Williams presided in the absence of Chairperson Myrna Cowen.

A review of the financial status showed the general fund remains in the "black". Superintendent Charles Pearce noted that the city and county sales tax revenues continue to meet

and exceed expectations.

Sandra Skinner was approved for a leave of absence to complete her student teaching during the spring quarter. She has been serving as a physical education aide in the elementary school.

Testing Coordinator Harriette Boyd addressed the board and discussed testing schedules for the balance of the school year. This is the same schedule published in this newspaper several weeks ago.

Included are the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), High School Basic Skills Exit Exam to 11th and 12th graders; Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing; grades 5 & 7; Algebra 1 End of Course Test and Geometry End of Course Test.

This year is the last year for the two End of Course Test, Boyd told board members. The subject is being added to the Exit Exam in the future.

Mrs. Boyd pointed out to the board that special classes have been set up for students not presently en-

rolled in a math class. This is being done to give them plenty of refresher review before the SAT test in April.

When asked who would teach these extra classes, Pearce explained, "Some fine teachers who volunteer to give up their planning period."

It is routine for non-tenured personnel to get a non-renewal letter at the end of school. After the legislature approves a new budget, the administration then knows how many teacher units are funded for the next year.

Pearce told board members that a compromise proposal had apparently been approved between the schools,

Pearce explained the compromise will give the raise to 100% in two steps, with teachers getting half of whatever shortfall they presently have during the first year and the other half the second year.

An exception will be teachers who declare in writing that they plan to retire within the next three years. These teachers get the 100% immediately. If they change their mind and don't retire, the extra money must be repaid.

Pearce said this plan would cost the local board from \$67,500 up to \$83,000. The higher figure is if all teachers eligible to retire so declare.

He added that even with the state plan for "lowering the divisor for teacher units by one," the compromise will still cause Elba to eliminate at least two teachers next year.

The superintendent explained that the school system is already losing \$143,000 in state funds called "whole harmless" beginning next year. By adding about \$39,400 in new money because of the lower-ered state enrollment divisor, Elba ends up with a net loss of about \$100,000 if the pay raise is mandated.

SEE SCHOOL
on page 2

Andy man stabbed in Coffee County

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Sheriff's Department is investigating the stabbing and cutting of an Andalusian man early Sunday morning, March 16, 1997.

James Randy Harrelson, 32, of

Andalusia, is recovering after surgery in Southeast Alabama Medical center in Dothan. He received stab wounds to the abdomen and groin and cuts under his right arm.

The incident apparently stemmed from an argument between Harrelson and William Todd Martin also,

32, also from Andalusia.

The two men were involved in an argument at a local night club in Opp; however, they apparently left the establishment and entered rural Coffee County approximately one mile inside the county line on AL Hwy. 134.

After the incident an unidentified friend took Harrelson to Opp Mizell Memorial Hospital where he was later transferred to SEMAC by a unit of the Opp Rescue Squad. At 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning, Harrelson was reported to be in stable condition and being prepared for surgery.

The Coffee County Sheriff's Department was notified of the incident at 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning by the Opp Police Department.

As of Monday afternoon, no arrest has been made in the stabbing.

The investigation is continuing by the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the Opp Police Department.



**Jury finds former
Elba attorney guilty
of drug charges**

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

An attorney who practiced law in Elba for a short time has been convicted on federal drug charges.

Attorney David Harrison, 36, an attorney presently practicing law in Geneva, AL, was found guilty of conspiring to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine in Coffee and Geneva counties.

He faces a possible prison sentence from 5 to 40 years and disbarment. The sentencing hearing has been set for May 12, 1997.

The guilty verdict was returned by a federal jury after hearing the case in Montgomery on Thursday March 6.

Harrison was arrested January 9, 1997 on a federal grand jury indictment charging him with entering into a methamphetamine conspiracy with a number of other individuals.

According to reports, Harrison is the 50th individual to be prosecuted in an ongoing joint investigation into methamphetamine trafficking in Southeast Alabama. Forty-nine people have been convicted.

Three residents of Coffee County also face sentencing on May 13 following their convictions in January on the same charges as Harrison.

They are Roger Wise and Dennis Weatherford of rural Coffee county and Dennis Weeks of Kinston.

The investigation leading to the arrests and convictions was conducted jointly by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Alabama Alcohol Beverage and Control Board, and the Alabama Bureau of Investigation. These agencies were assisted by the Geneva County and Coffee County Sheriff Departments.

Meet Your Elba Police Officers

Meet Police Officer Cpl. Michael Patrick. Michael has been a member of the Elba Police Department for the past 12 years. He has also served as a relief officer on the Brantley Police Department for 4 years.

Cpl. Patrick presently works in the patrol division of the department. He is a graduate of the Montgomery Police Department's Police Academy and has also received special training in schools held in Luverne, Hartford, and Ozark.

Michael states that what he likes most about being a policeman is "serving the public" and he has no dislikes. He also likes to serve warrants and make DUI cases.

On of his most memorable experiences as a policeman is when he received a commendation from the Alabama Attorney General and a plaque from M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) for DUI arrests.

Cpl. Patrick would like to see



more continuing education for police officers, more concentration of drugs, and more driver license and safety checks by the department.

Michael is single; however, he is engaged to be married in the near future.



MAN JUMPS OFF WHITEWATER BRIDGE...At approximately 1:09 p.m. Sunday afternoon, the Elba Police Department, along with Elba Rescue Squad, responded to an incident at the Whitewater Bridge on Smith Avenue in downtown Elba. It was reported by Chad Carter, a young man crossing the bridge, that a man had fallen off the bridge. Upon arriving on the scene, Thomas Spivey was located lying on the ground (not in the water) under the bridge. He was complaining of injuries to his leg and ankle. Spivey was transported to Elba General Hospital where he received emergency treatment. He was later transferred to a Dothan hospital for further treatment. Based on information given police, Spivey jumped from the bridge. Family members stated that he had been to the hospital in Luverne seeking psychiatric treatment, and was sent home after being told to return on Monday. None of Spivey's injuries were thought to be life-threatening. The incident is still under investigation by the Elba Police Department.

Traffic stop leads to drug bust

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

A routine traffic stop by Elba police on Friday, March 14, led to a drug bust.

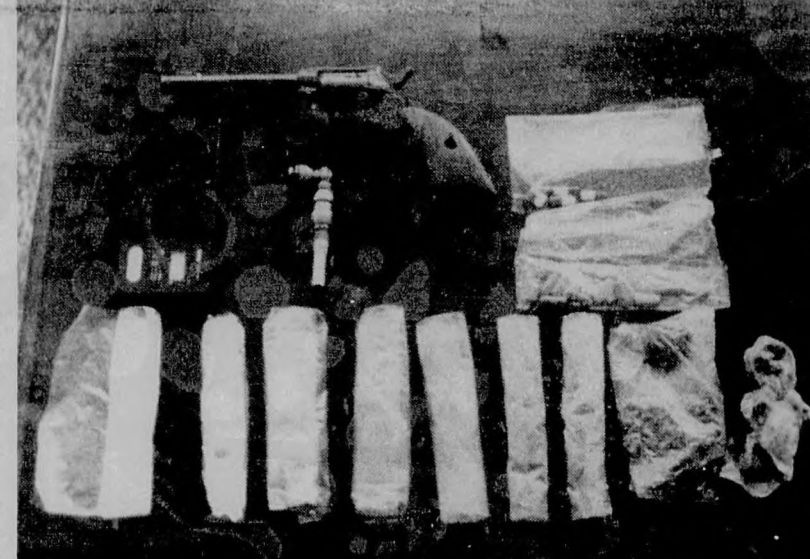
Investigator Johnny Senn, who represents EPD on the 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force, reported that following a traffic stop by investigators a quantity of drugs were discovered.

Randall Jeff Crocker, 35, of Elba was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana in the first degree, and unlawful possession, or receipt, of a controlled substance.

He was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Seized in the arrest were approximately 3 ounces of marijuana, a revolver handgun, and a 1985 Dodge Daytona automobile. The street value of the marijuana is about \$400.00.

Crocker was placed in the Coffee County Jail in New Brockton and



later released after posting a total bail of \$4,500.00. The matter is still under investigation by the 12th Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force and the Elba Police Department.

ACS Relay for Life set for May 16

The 1997 Relay for Life sponsored by the Coffee County Chapter of the American Cancer Society has been set for May 16, 1997.

Members of the chapter are busy enlisting and encouraging individuals and groups to get involved in this team effort of fighting cancer.

In a press conference held last Thursday, Charlene Goolsby said, "The event is a celebration of life and a memorialization to those who lost their battle with cancer."

The twelve hour event will begin in the late evening of Friday, May 16, and last throughout the night. It involves teams made up of individuals from corporations, families, groups of friends, and other various organizations from throughout the county.

The relay will take place on the campus of Enterprise State Junior College in Enterprise as it has for the past five years.

In addition to the around-the-clock walking, there will be other activities such as line dancing, a talent show, and music provided by a live band.

The highlight of the Relay is both an emotional and moving one when the first lap around the track is made by cancer survivors.

Luminary sponsors are being sought by the ACS. Corporations, organizations or groups are being asked to be overall luminary sponsors for a donation of \$5,000.00.

In return for their donation, these special sponsors' name will be placed on each luminary bag, on t-

shirts, and the website. Last year, more than 1,200 individuals participated in the overall event; however, it is estimated that more than 2,800 people were present during the luminary lighting ceremony.

It is estimated that approximately 560,000 individuals will die from cancer in 1997. That is more than 1,500 people per day.

The local chapter's goal for this year is to raise \$110,000.00 to be used to fight this killer.

"Relay for Life is as much an awareness raiser about the progress

against cancer as it is a fundraiser," said David Deal, Relay for Life Chairman for 1997. "Many of the participants will be people who have been cured of cancer."

"Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made not only in cancer cure rates, but in the quality of life following cancer treatment."

For more information concerning Relay for Life '97 contact David Deal at 347-4247, Charlene Goolsby at 347-2866 or the American Cancer Society at 793-1012.

HAPPENINGS

FIFTY-YEAR CELEBRATION. In celebration of 50 years in business, The National Security Group of Elba invites Wiregrass citizens to join them for an evening of musical entertainment. On Friday March 21, Stage Centre Company will present "Some Enchanted Evening - The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein" at 7:30 p.m. in the Elba High School Auditorium. For complimentary tickets call 897-2273 ext. 204.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION. Kindergarten registration for the 1997-98 school year will be held at Elba Elementary School on Friday, March 21, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANNUAL FIELD DAY. The Elba Youth Training Center's 3rd Annual Field Day will be held on Saturday, March 22, 1997, starting at 8:00 a.m. This event will take place at the old Mulberry High School in Elba, AL. All children are urged to participate in this activity.

COMMISSION MEETING. The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, March 24, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room located in the Farm Center Complex in New Brockton.

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Our comments on cloning got a comment or two. One lady was in the office Friday afternoon talking to Heddy. She stepped into my little office and left a note taped to the last electric typewriter in the house. She voiced concern that if cloning becomes widespread, someone might duplicate her and me. The opinion was that this would be bad, bad bad! (She was probably more concerned about suffering through another me.) Maybe not so bad madam, there is expert opinions that these clones might have our looks, but not necessarily have our less than perfect ways. That is where environment help mold our personalities.

Our comments about asteroids wiping out the dinosaurs also triggered a reaction. We have a good friend who is a retired scientist and/or engineer who spent his working years at the government's top secret Los Alamos laboratory. He rubbed elbows and drank beer (and apparently argued scientific theories) with all the major names in atomic and hydrogen bomb research. He also happened to know a Nobel Prize winner by the name of Luis W. Alvarez, as well as the man's scientist father, Alvarez Jr. is the guy who first formulated the asteroid theory of dinosaur extinctions. He also invented the Ground Control Approach radar system for airplane landings and a lot of other things. Now on our desk are copies of some scientific journals with a lot of handwritten notes which I can't even pronounce, much less understand! I know all about (?) "The Three-Body Problem and the Kirkwood Gaps. Here is part of the equation to solve the first problem. Oops, this computer doesn't have all those funny symbols. Anyway it deals with the "motion of the infinitesimal body." It has something to do with the planets, moons, stars and asteroids. . . we think. Anyway Tom said so.

We hope local folks don't forget the musical presentation being furnished by National Security Friday night. It is part of their 50th anniversary celebration and is free. Just call 897-2273 for complimentary tickets and be at the Elba High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Friday night. See you there.

Moore reports compromise is reached on teacher pay

by Representative Garrett Moore

A compromise plan was worked out between the administration and the AEA to phase in the pay requirements on the salary matrix. This phase-in period will give systems two years to reach the goal of all teachers being paid 100% of the matrix. Teachers giving notice of retirement will be automatically accelerated to the full scale so as to have no ill effects in retirement income. This issue was one of the most important, and one that had to be treated fairly and with some prayerful thought. By lowering the divisor by one, each system will receive more funding next year for an estimated 900 teachers state wide. This will hopefully offset most of the cost incurred by our local system.

I've received assurance from Bill Fuller, chairman of Ways and Means, that our local systems will be taken care of. I feel that by upgrading up to AEA's initial demands we were able to reach a workable solution to a sticky problem. Coffee County should fair better than most. I'll report on those bills when areas of the state with the compromise. I am proud to report to the teachers that I did vote for the compromise bill in its final form as it left the House headed for the Senate. We should not lose sight that we

have changed the heading for education in Alabama. We will have a few bumps in the road along the way. But the fact is that with the Foundation Program, passed in the 1995 regular session, we embarked on a journey. A new direction for Alabama's school. Along with basic funding changes that sought equity statewide while encouraging less central office administrators and more classroom teachers we also required some accountability. The report cards for systems are starting to build a track record. The state superintendent now has a barometer to gauge the effectiveness of systems statewide. Student and teacher testing is a reality on a scale to make it effective. I believe we are on the right track.

We also passed the education budget package on to the Senate. As usual we'll probably hear back on it near the end of the session. We'll be taking up welfare reform in the next week or two as well as the general County should fair better than most. I'll report on those bills when areas of the state with the compromise. I am proud to report to the teachers that I did vote for the compromise bill in its final form as it left the House headed for the Senate. We should not lose sight that we



NEVER TOO YOUNG...The youngsters pictured above are from Wee Care Daycare in Elba. They were given a tour of the Elba Police Department by Lt. John Nelson. He explained to the youngsters that policemen not only catch the bad guys but their duties include helping people also. The group was accompanied by Christina Nelson.

Coffee County's Emergency Communications Board meets

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Emergency Communications Board met at 7:00 p.m. on March 13, 1997. All board members were present including Elba Mayor James Grimes, New Brockton Mayor Britt Lee, Kinston Mayor Bill Mullins and Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moten.

The main topic of discussion was the answering point of the planned Enhanced 911 system would be located. At the present time, all present agreed that Elba and Enterprise should serve as the answering centers.

A mapping firm was present in last Thursday's meeting to brief and present a contract proposal to the board members.

Little Miss Elba Pageant scheduled April 18

The Little Miss Elba Pageant is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 1997, at 7 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium.

Alison McCreary, Miss Alabama 1996, will be Emcee and also will provide entertainment.

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 8. Forms are available at the Elba Elementary School office and at the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

Interested persons may call the Elba Chamber at 897-3125 for more information.

Miss & Jr. Miss Elba Pageant set for April 19

The Jr. Miss and Miss Elba Pageant is set for Saturday, April 19, 1997, at 7 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium.

Carrie Johnson, of WSFA-TV, Today in Alabama, will be Emcee. Special entertainment is being planned.

Deadline for registration is April 7. Forms are available at the Elba High School office and at the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

For more information call the Elba Chamber at 897-3125.

Look! Small Ads Do Get Attention! You're reading one!

Call THE ELBA CLIPPER 897-2823 Today!!!!

Bulletin Board

S.S. REP - Courthouse, 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-722-1213.
 ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon - First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.
 ELBA MINISTERS ASSN. - Tues. 8:00 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.
 ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Mondays 6:00 p.m. City Hall.
 WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6:00 p.m. City Hall.
 COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton.
 LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Center.
 ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. 5:30 p.m. - Sun. Office.
 AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
 RESCUE SQUAD - 2nd & 4th Tues. 7:00 p.m. - Rescue Squad Building.
 MASONIC LODGE 119 - 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month 7 p.m.
 BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. 7 p.m. - Band Room @ Elba High School.
 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri. 8-12 noon & 12:30-4:30 - New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-555.
 COFFEE COUNTY CO-OWNERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. 3 p.m. - Club House.
 COFFEE REFORMERS WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise.
 REPORT AUTHORITY - 1st Tuesday-12 Noon - City Hall Conference Room.
 AARP - Meet every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.
 CIVIL AIR PATROL - Every Monday 7:00 p.m. - Elba Airport-Dissollihangar.
 The tax, mail, probate by National Security Insurance Co.

Hours at your Elba Public Library are:
 • Mon., Thurs. and Friday - open from 9 a.m. til 5 p.m.
 • Every TUESDAY the library is open from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m.
 • Wednesday - library open from 9 a.m. until noon

ELBA POLICE REPORT

MARCH 10 Thru MARCH 16, 1997

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, March 10, 1997, investigated the following incidents: one stabbing (self-inflicted); two thefts of property, one unlawful use of a vehicle, one public intoxication, one criminal trespassing, six assaults, two harassments, one missing person, one recovery of property, one unlawful possession of marijuana, one unlawful possession of a controlled substance, one possession of drug paraphernalia, one resisting arrest, one child custody dispute, one harassing communication, one robbery, one criminal mischief, and one burglary.

Arrests were as follows: one for public intoxication, one for VPL, two for assaults, one for harassment, one for unlawful possession of marijuana, one for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, one for possession of drug paraphernalia, and one for resisting arrest.

Traffic citations issued were as follows: seven for speeding.

Daily activity highlights were as follows:

MONDAY, MARCH 10 - Rescue run to a residence on Jackson St. (2:16 a.m.); River stage - 6.10 feet (6:08 a.m.); Rescue run to a residence (9:53 a.m.); Fire department dispatched to a grass fire on AL Hwy. 87N (2:23 p.m.); Disturbance reported on AL Hwy. 125N (4:49 p.m.); fire department dispatched to a fire on Guyton St. (7:44 p.m.).

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 - River stage - 5.95 feet (6:28 a.m.); Rescue run to Legion Field (4:47 p.m.); Rescue run to a residence on Reese Ave. (10:46 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 - River stage - 5.93 feet (6:22 a.m.); Alarm at SouthTrust Bank (2:02 p.m.); Eight reported on U.S. Hwy. 84E (4:42 p.m.); Man reponed with a gun in Mulberry Park (5:54 p.m.).

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 - Rescue run to a residence on Co. Rd. 406 (1:58 a.m.); Rescue run to a residence on AL Hwy. 125N (6:40 a.m.); River stage - 5.73 feet (7:00 a.m.).

Patients discharged during the same period of time were: Annie Marler, Agnes Ingram, Seddie Edwards, Gladys Minney, Evelyn Brown, Mary Brooks, Valinda Morrison, Jessie Daniels, William Twilley, Veneria Bouwell, Andrica Wicker, Eleanor Adkinson, Trudie Jackson, Mozell McCormick, Terry Griggs, Button Bryant, Sid Odom, and Arbell Phillips.

The class gives an overview of services provided by the American Red Cross during a disaster, and how volunteers can help.

Any interested person may attend, and all classes are free to volunteers. To register call 347-2461.

GRAND OPENING SUBWAY of Elba

Friday, March 21 (For Special 11-9) Saturday, March 22 (For Special 11-7)
 Buy 1 Footlong - get the 2nd Footlong FREE (Of Equal or Lesser Value)

Ribbon Cutting at 11 A.M. Friday

 Regular Business - 9 A.M. - 10 P.M. - Mon - Thurs
 9 A.M. - 12 P.M. - Fri & Sat
 10 A.M. - 10 P.M. - Sun.

Free Gifts Fri. & Sat. to Lucky Customers

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

1698 Hickman Ave. - Elba - 897-8462

1st Annual MARCH BLOOMING MADNESS

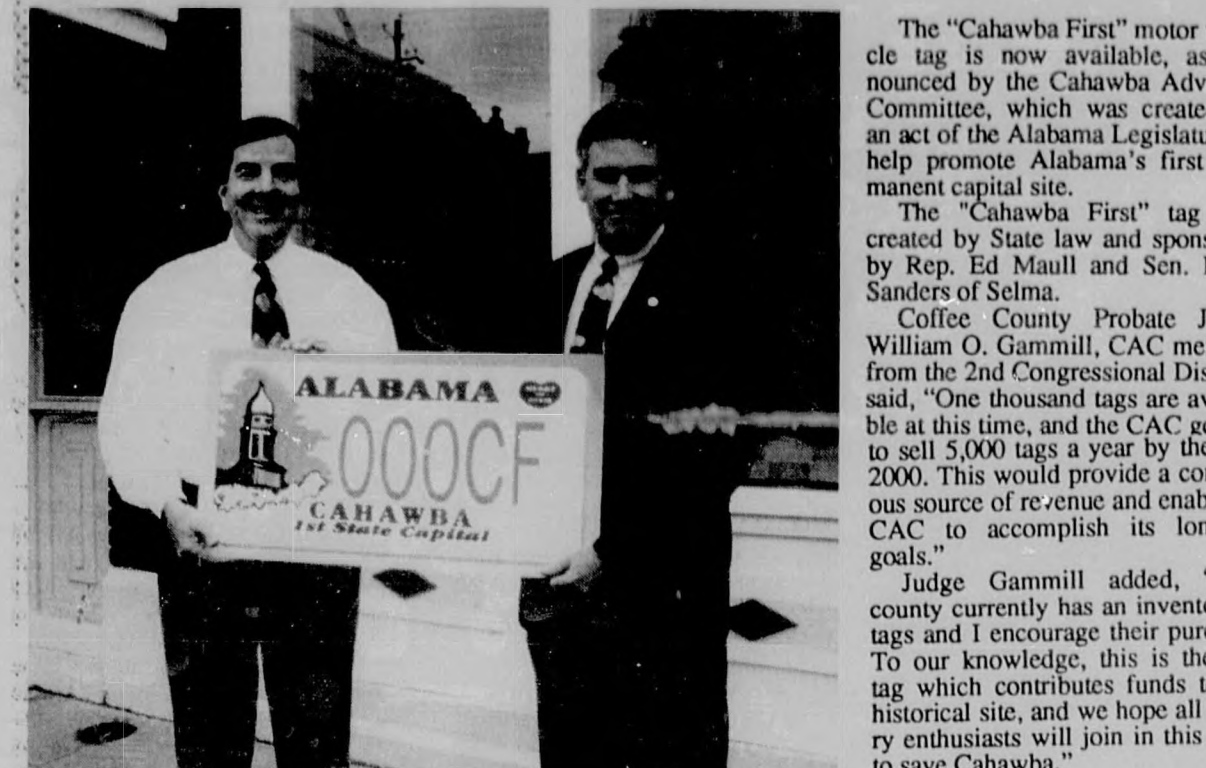
Saturday, March 22
 Fay's Nursery
 Landscaping & Lawn Care

Old River Road in Elba
 1-Gallon Azaleas \$1.00 & Up • 3-Gallon Azaleas on Special •
 1-Gallon Red Tips \$1.00 While They Last •
 Evergreens on Special • 2 1/2' Malon Pecan Trees \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00 • All Fruit Trees on Special •
 1-Gallon Grapes & Scuppernon Vines \$4.00/\$3.00 Day of Sale •
 All Shade Trees on Special • All Flowering Trees on Special •
 Flower Bradford Pear Starting at \$8.00 • 10" Hanging Basket Ferns \$5.00, \$8.00, \$10.00 • Annuals on Special •
 Hanging Flower Baskets on Special •
 Jackson & Perkins Roses 3-Gallon \$9.00 • 2-Gallon Roses \$6.50 •
 7-Gallon Kwanzan Flowering Cherry \$21.95 Saturday Only!



PLANNING FOR CLASS REUNION . . . Members of the Elba High School Class of '52 are planning their 45th reunion to be held May 31 at the new Elba High School. The reunion will begin with a social hour at 4 p.m. in the high school cafeteria and a tour of the new school facilities at 5:30. Dinner will follow at 6 p.m. Sixty-one graduates - 31 women and 30 men - graduated May 18, 1952. All but one, Sara Sanders Farris, have been located; anyone within knowledge of her address is asked to call Nadine Fuller at 897-3644 or 897-2094. Pictured, Reunion Planning Committee L-R: Phil Hamm, June Hamm, Nadine Fuller, Nell Gilmer, Pat Sharpless (not pictured, Janice Hudson and Betty Lewis)

First capital site tag now available



Larry Oakes, (left), Alabama Historical Commission Executive Director, and Judge William Gammill, display the "Cahawba First" vehicle tag.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Marvin,
 A great big "Thank You" to all the people of Elba for the success of our annual Lions Club Pancake Day!

As in years past, so many businesses were willing to contribute and support our efforts.

We are grateful for the spirit of cooperation of the citizens of Elba, and the pride shown in making our city one in which the people care and serve others.

Because of you, the Elba Lions Club will be able to help those who are in need, and thereby help make our community a better place in which to live!

Thank you all!

REX BOUTWELL, Pres.

Dear Editor,

The sexes still do not have equal representation in state and national governments. As a matter of fact, females have very little representation. Men pass the laws under which women must live.

Why is it that men think they know all the answers to problems faced by women? They keep trying to pass anti-abortion laws to tell women they have to right to control what goes on in their own bodies.

If these men are so concerned about women having abortions, they should pass a law that would eliminate the N. ED for abortion by controlling the CAUSE: a law that would inprison a man for five years if he impregnated a woman who did not want a child.

Also, the man should be required to pay the woman's medical expenses and to compensate her for the trauma involved. Such a law would quickly solve the abortion problem.

Since men are the cause of all pregnancies, they should either pass such a law or leave women free to make their own decisions AND provide abortion funding for all women who need it.

Incidentally, I am a man, and I am pro-family. I have been married for 43 years, and I have five children and five grandchildren. I do not want politicians meddling with the private lives of my daughters and granddaughters.

ALFRED E. FAULKNER
 205-546-8419

AREA DEATHS

JANICE C. DEVANE

Mrs. Janice C. Devane, age 56, of Rt. 1, Elba, died March 16, 1997, at her home.

Funeral services were held March 19, 1997, at 10 a.m. at Hayes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. David Richburg officiating.

Burial was in Whitewater Baptist Church Cemetery, Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Devane, Elba; one daughter, Pamela D. Sabet d'Acre, Paris, France; one brother, Charles T. Pearson, Enterprise.

JESSIE MAE DANIELS

Mrs. Jessie Mae Daniels died Tuesday, March 11, 1997, at Elba General Hospital in Elba. She was born June 22, 1958, at the late Ezell Cole Sr. and the late Annie Lee Goosby Cole.

She joined Shady Grove A.M.E. Church in Elba at a young age and remained a loyal member until her death.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 15, 1997, at 2 p.m. from Shady Grove A.M.E. Church, Elba, with Rev. F.L. Flowers, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in Shady Grove A.M.E. Church Cemetery, with Hammond Funeral Home, Elba, directing.

Survivors include: her husband, Mr. Charlie C. Daniels, Elba; one daughter, Ms. Contina LaDawn Daniels, Elba; two grandchildren, Jeffrey Cole, Jerome Cole, Ezell Jr. (Vivian) Cole, and Levy II (Pearlie) Cole, all of Elba; two sisters: Ola (Henry) Woods and Frances (Wallace) Daniels, both of Elba; eight brothers-in-law, eleven sisters-in-law, and other relatives.

FRANCES COLE DANIELS

Mrs. Frances Cole Daniels died March 13, 1997. She was born to the late Mr. Ezell Cole Sr. and the late Annie Lee Goosby Cole on June 19, 1953.

She joined Shady Grove A.M.E. Church at an early age, and was a loyal member until her death.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 15, 1997, at 2 p.m. from Shady Grove A.M.E. Church, Elba, with Rev. F.L. Flowers, pastor, officiating.

Burial followed in the Shady Grove A.M.E. Church Cemetery, with Hammond Funeral Home, Elba, directing.

Survivor include her husband: Mr. Wallace H. Daniels; two sons: Wallace (Carmen) Daniels, Jr. and Tony Daniels, both of Elba; one daughter: Stephanie Daniels of Elba; two grandchildren: Jacqueta Daniels and Brianna Daniels; grandmother, Lee Ella Robinson; mother-in-law, Rosa Lee Daniels; four brothers: Charles (Annie) Cole, Jerome Cole, Ezell Jr. (Vivian) Cole, and Levy II (Pearlie) Cole, all of Elba; one sister, Ola (Henry) Woods, Elba; eight brothers-in-law, eleven sisters-in-law, and other relatives.

Pre-need Funeral Planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home for details 897-2225

VIRGIL COLEMAN MORTUARY

In Time of Need Call
 205-897-6148 We accept Discover Cards
 •FREE Notary •FREE Pick-up within 300 miles
 •World Wide Fax Services
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GRAND OPENING
 Friday, March 21st
 11:30 A.M.
EVERYONE WELCOME
 Come By & Browse
GUYS USED MOWERS & FLEA MARKET
 Guy Aycock
897-5043
 406 W. Collier (Behind City Hall)

This newspaper is printed with environment friendly Soy-based INK on RECYCLED PAPER

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 6 Months - \$8.00 - Including City & State Tax
 Alabama Counties - \$17.00 Per Year - Including Tax
 6 Months - \$9.00
 Outside Alabama - \$18.00 Per Year - 6 Months - \$10.00

93.7 WRJL
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We Are An Open

Hours at your Elba Public Library are:
 • Mon., Thurs. and Friday - open from 9 a.m. til 5 p.m.
 • Every TUESDAY the library is open from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m.
 • Wednesday - library open from 9 a.m. until noon

MARCH SPECIALS OF THE MONTH
 at **Cook Chevrolet**

1995 CAMRY	1996 LUMINA	1996 TAHOE	1997 EXPLORER
1995 CHEVROLET Z-71	1996 BUICK CENTURY	1995 4 - DOOR TAHOE	1995 CAMRY
1996 OLDS CUTLASS CIERA Only \$225.95 Month*	1988 CELEBRITY Extra Clean - Super Low Price	1996 TAHOE - 4 WHEEL DRIVE	1996 GRAND AM Only \$249.95 Month*

*WAC & \$1,000.00 PLUS TAX & TITLE DOWN

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Social and Community News

Miss Hodge to wed Mr. English June 7th



Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Hodge of Elba, and Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Kilpatrick of Geneva announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Tammy Michele Hodge, to James Ross English, son of Mrs. Lois English and the late Mr. Joe F. English of Elba.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. William R. Hodge of the Newbia Community, and is employed with Kleins & Sons.

The groom is employed with All-Star Sports and Graphics.

The wedding will take place on June 7, at two o'clock in the afternoon at Elba Church of Christ.

No local invitations are being sent. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Free tickets available for concert in Elba on March 21

On Friday evening, March 21, Stage Centre Company of Tuscaloosa will present "Some Enchanted Evening - The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein" at the Elba High School auditorium. The show will include songs from *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, and *The King and I*.

The production is being sponsored by the National Security Group of Elba as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. For more information or to reserve free tickets, call 897-2273 (ext. 204) or 1-800-239-2358 outside Coffee County.

Mr. English & Miss Hodge



Dr. Hearn & Miss Barnes

Miss Barnes to wed Dr. Hearn in Hawaii

Mrs. Diane Jackson of Elba announces the engagement and forthcoming marriage of her daughter, Jennifer Barnes, to Dr. James A. Hearn, son of Dr. and Mrs. J.T.

Hearn, of Harrisonburg, Va. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Virginia and John Barnes of Elba.

She is a 1984 graduate of Elba High School and is employed at Edgewood Cardiology in Greenville, S.C.

The future groom is a 1976 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and a 1982 graduate of University of Virginia School of Medicine.

He is employed at Carolina Heart Clinic, Spartanburg, S.C.

The wedding will be held April 4, 1997, at sunset at the Renaissance Wailea Beach, Maui, Hawaii. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

At this time, the club agreed to the responsibility of planting of shrubs and maintaining a "Welcome to Elba" sign on Hwy. 84 East. This is being done as a community project and in response to a request by the Chamber of Commerce.

The club also agreed to a purchase of a personalized brick to be laid at the sight of the old jail.

The meeting was adjourned.

Westside Baptist Men will host the annual Community Easter Sunrise Service on March 30, 1997 at 5:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served following the service. The speaker for the service this year will be Rev. Marvin Ennis, pastor of Elba United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to this service and breakfast.

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Three-In-One Study Club hears program on Recycling

The Three-In-One Study Club met March 13 in the home of Mrs. R.H. Lee. A delicious dessert plate with coffee were served to members and a guest, Mr. Donnie Morrow.

Mrs. S.F. Canley, in reading the Club Collect and introduced the guest speaker.

Mr. Morrow gave an informative lecture on awareness of recycling and the place of pick-up.

Flood mitigation, drainage problems and others were discussed.

Members present were Mrs. Pauline Allen, Mrs. S.F. Canley, Mrs. Edward Hudson, Mrs. Donald Lee, Mrs. R.H. Lee, Mrs. Conway Lowery, Mrs. Wilson Newman, Mrs. Buck Smart, and Mrs. E.M. Warr.

Magnolia Home & Garden Club holds March meeting

The Magnolia Home and Garden Club met at the public library on March 6. Mrs. Alice Lee and Mrs. Joan Jacobs were hostesses and served a delicious refreshment plate decorated in the Easter motif.

Mrs. Doris Taylor, local librarian, was guest speaker for the day. Her topic was "Good Reading".

In the development of her program, she discussed briefly the history of the library, stating that it was begun in 1932 in the home of Mrs. John Brunson, under the sponsorship of the Elba Study Club.

Today, the library has over 17,000 books in all categories. Audio and video tapes are available. Many books can be obtained overnight from the Regional Library in Opp. Also, books from other major libraries around the state can be borrowed within a few days. There is a computer on the premises for use by patrons. In a short time, the entire library process of categorizing and checking out books will be on computer.

Following the program, Mrs. Gene Kennett, president, presided over a short business meeting.

At this time, the club agreed to the responsibility of planting of shrubs and maintaining a "Welcome to Elba" sign on Hwy. 84 East. This is being done as a community project and in response to a request by the Chamber of Commerce.

The club also agreed to a purchase of a personalized brick to be laid at the sight of the old jail.

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N'Harmony to sing at New Brockton Methodist Church Saturday evening

N'Harmony, the talented singing trio from Virginia Beach, Va., will appear at New Brockton United Methodist Church Saturday, March 22, beginning at 7 p.m.

The church is located one block off McKinnon Street in New Brockton, at the corner of King and Dawkins Streets.

N'Harmony was nominated for "Horizon Group of the Year" at the Singing News Fan Awards, and has appeared on the National Quartet Convention Showcase.

The singers appeared at New Brockton Methodist Church several years ago.

There will be no admission charge. A love offering will be taken.

Everyone is invited.

Old Fashioned Singing to be held at Pleasant Ridge Church

There will be an Old Fashioned Singing at Pleasant Ridge Church, near Victoria, on Saturday, March 29, 1997, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Good Friday Services to be held at St. Beulah Baptist Church

St. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate Good Friday on March 28, with the theme "Pause for Power."

Seven area ministers will commemorate the "Seven Last Words of Jesus," beginning at 12 noon and ending at 3 p.m.

The public is invited.

Senior Citizens of Cordelia Street meet

Members of the Senior Citizens of Cordelia Street met at the HRDC building on Factory St. on March 13.

Members visited and exchanged news, and commented that "It really seems that Spring is on the way again!"

Several members visited various stores in town, and an exciting domino game was played.

All members are urged to attend at the same time.

A delicious lunch was served to the following:

Bonnie Wesley, Zedie Bouyer, Frank and Lennie McCollough, Mary Harris, Iris McDowell, Mary Sutley, Aileen English, Merle Boling, Nona Marie, Agnes Stinson, Marvin Matthews, Frances Shabo, Odell Reeves, Marion Brunson, Cora McBride, Mary Phillips, W. Sasser.

Grace Fellowship Assembly of God Church will be having a special day March 23. Rev. Roy D. Creamer, District Secretary/Treasurer will be the morning speaker. Lunch will be served following the morning service. There will be both congregational and special singing at 2:00 p.m.

The church is located in Level Plains on Old Hwy. 134.

Rev. J.M. Bryant is president; Dea. James Williams - vice president; Sis. Eria Lindner Belcher - secretary; Sis. Marnie Williams - assistant secretary; Sis. Caryn Carpenter - corresponding secretary; Dea. Grover Belcher - treasurer; Women's Dept. - Sis. Lessor R. Davis, chairperson; Youth Dept. - Sis. Brittany Daniels; Adult Sunday School Teacher - Dea. Charles Grace; Youth Sunday School Teacher - Sis. Ernestine Kelley; Rev. J.L.

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Views from

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Passing on a few notes left on the desk...

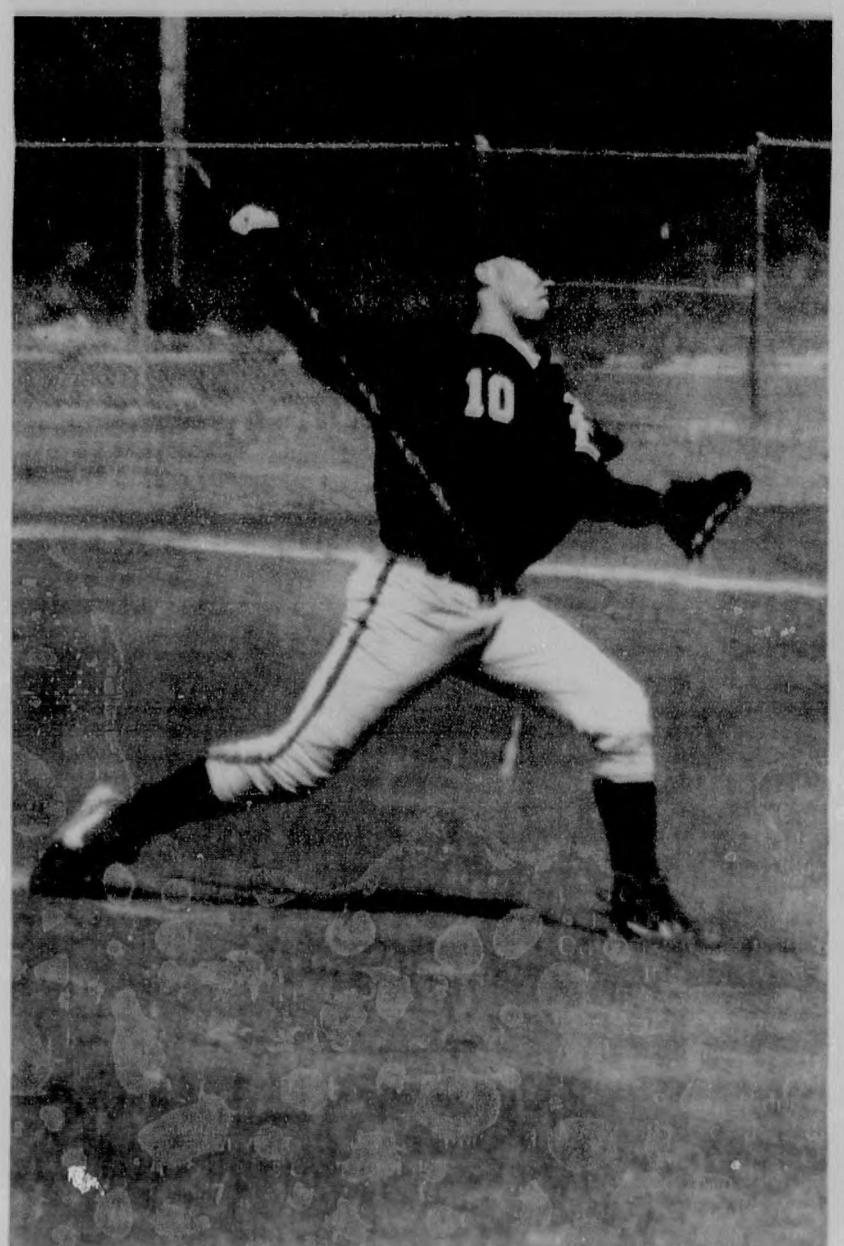
The Elba Tigers opened the baseball season last week and claimed three wins in four games to jump out to an early 3-1 record. The Tigers made some crucial fielding errors in the opening-season loss to Arion, and also made some costly errors in their win over Laverne, but were able to come back from the misuses against their 2A rivals and rallied for the win. Elba's biggest weakness prior to the season appeared to be pitching; however, the Tiger pitching staff allowed a total of only 16 hits in the opening four games, while striking out 23 batters and allowing only seven bases on balls. The pitching staff may not be over-powering, but the Tiger pitchers seem to know what they can and can't do, and last week made their opponents hit the ball. Hitting is always a little behind early in the season, but Elba pounced out 34 hits in its opening four games and scored 26 runs. Todd McKee and Ronnie Davis both batted at least .500 for the opening week of action, with McKee getting 8 hits in 15 at-bats, and Davis coming in with 7 hits in 14 trips to the plate. Josh Dawkins came through with 6 hits in 13 at-bats from the leadoff spot in the order, and Derek Marler got 4 hits, including two home-runs. The season certainly isn't made in the first week of action; however, the Tigers found out they had some pitchers that could come through in the clutch, and also found out they had some folks that could hit the ball. Not a bad start!

The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers opened their softball season last week and scored runs in bunches to close the week with a 3-1 mark. The Junior High girls scored 56 runs in the four games, an average of 14 runs per game, and were led by seventh-grader Aubretta Williams, who collected 9 hits and 4 home-runs in the opening week's play. The Junior High girls will play a dozen games in the early part of the season before calling it quits, and it looks like the youngsters are in for a big season. Having a junior high squad will certainly pay dividends down the line and make the varsity program solid for years to come.

The Southeastern Conference has long bragged about how well it does in the NCAA Basketball Tournament, but all that talk will likely come to an end after the SEC teams did so poorly in this year's opening round. Kentucky survived the opening round with two wins, but South Carolina got embarrassed by Coppin State, Georgia got ousted by Chattanooga, Ole Miss was humiliated by Temple and Vanderbilt fell to Xavier. Years ago the SEC may have been a true basketball power; however, this year the conference fell flat on its face, and it may take years for it to get back up.

The Sweet Swingers Softball Classic will be held on April 11-12 at Hawkins-Williams Park, and this year's high school girls' softball tournament will feature its best field ever. The tournament closed its fields last week in both divisions, and for the first time will have 12 teams in both the 1A-3A and 4A-6A divisions. New faces in this year's tournament will include Selma, Choctaw County, Ashford, Dale County, Greenville, Pike County, Carroll, and Central of Hayneville in the 3A-6A division, while the 1A-3A group will have some familiar faces, with the only newcomers being Florala and Straughn. Remember, 24 girls' high school softball teams will be coming to town on April 11-12. So, mark your calendars and watch some of the best softball action to be seen anywhere across the state.

The newly installed grass infields at Legion Field have drawn nothing but praise from the visiting teams and coaches after one week of high school play. The field has over 100 games scheduled for the 1997 season, and while there may be problems down the line from the constant trauma on the young grass, it looks like the move to grass was worth the money, and all the hard work.



Elba's Ronnie Davis (10) prepares to fire a fastball to a Laverne batter. Davis limited the visitors to only four hits, while collecting two hits at the plate to spark Elba to the win.

For first wins of young season

Tigers sweep past Brantley 7-4, 11-1

The Elba Tigers hosted the Brantley Bulldogs Friday afternoon at Legion Field and proved to be anything but pleasant hosts as they swept the Bulldogs 7-4 and 11-1 to improve their record on the young season to 2-1.

Following are highlights of both games:

ELBA 7
BRANTLEY 4

The Elba Tigers pulled out to an early 7-0 lead and turned back a late Bulldog challenge to down Brantley 7-4, in the first game of the double-header.

Neither team scored in the first inning, but the Tigers' bats came to life in the second as Elba grabbed an early 2-0 lead on an RBI double by Troy Bryan and an RBI single by Trent Calhoun.

Elba carried the slim 2-0 lead into the bottom of the fourth; however,

the Tigers again came to life at the plate and combined four hits with one walk and one error to score five runs and grab a big 7-0 advantage.

A single by Dustin Stinson sparked the uprising for the Tigers, while a bases-loaded single by Josh Dawkins, an RBI single by Ronnie Davis and a bases-loaded double by Todd McKee did the damage.

Brantley staged a rally of its own in the top of the sixth and cut the Elba lead to 7-4; however, this time the Tigers held on and claimed their first win of the season.

Josh Dawkins and Ronnie Davis both got 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Todd McKee and Troy Bryan both collected two runs batted-in. Josh Dawkins got the mound win for the Tigers as he pitched five innings, allowed only three hits and struck out six batters.

Brooks Creel got the save by pitching three hitless innings.

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ELBA 11
BRANTLEY 1

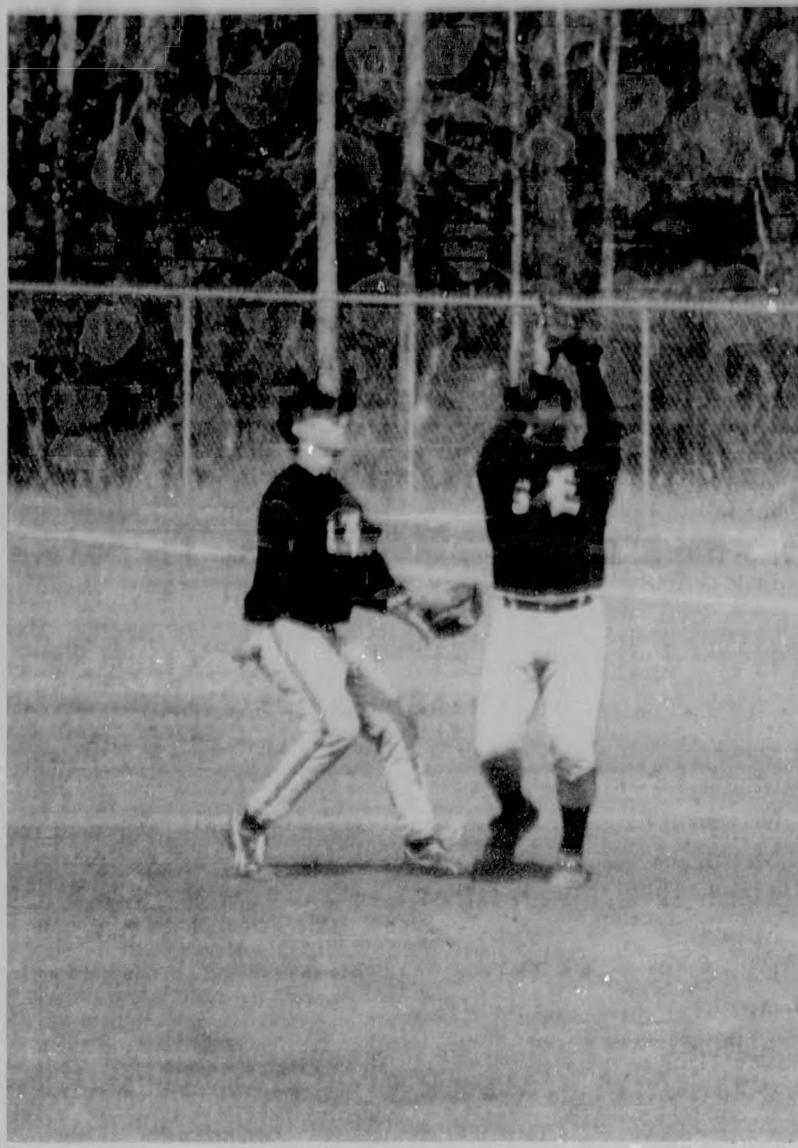
The Elba Tigers completed a sweep of the Brantley Bulldogs Friday night by claiming a big 11-1 win.

The Tigers wasted little time taking command in the nightcap as walks to Derek Marler and D'Undray Peterson and hits by Ronnie Davis and Todd McKee spotted Elba to a 3-0 first inning lead.

Elba pushed its lead to 4-0 in the second on an RBI double by Ronnie Davis, but then saw its bats go silent as Brantley cut the lead to 4-1 after four innings.

Todd McKee, D'Undray Peterson and Randy Dodd also had key hits in the big fifth inning rally.

A leadoff single by Josh Dawkins in the bottom of the sixth put the Tigers back in business, and Derek Marler, Todd McKee and Troy Bryan all delivered RBI singles as the



I'VE GOT IT...Elba Tiger first-baseman Todd McKee (5) calls for a pop-up as second-baseman Trent Calhoun arrives. McKee batted over .500 in the Tigers three wins last week.

Tigers ended the game by blowing the game open and taking an 11-1 advantage.

A leadoff single by Josh Dawkins in the bottom of the sixth put the Tigers back in business, and Derek Marler, Todd McKee and Troy Bryan all delivered RBI singles as the

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Elba rally sinks Laverne 5-4

Elba's Ronnie Davis knocked in the tying run with a two-out single in the bottom of the seventh inning and later scored the winning run on a passed ball to lift the Tigers to an exciting 5-4 win over the Laverne Tigers, Saturday afternoon in Elba.

The win improved Elba's record to 3-1 on the season.

Neither team could get on the scoreboard in the opening two innings as both teams were limited to just two hits; however, Elba denied

the scoreboard in the third and combined two hits with an error to take a 2-0 lead.

Josh Dawkins singled to open the inning for the Tigers, moved to second on a stolen base, and then raced home with the first run of the game on an RBI single by Ronnie Davis.

Davis was forced out on a fielder's choice off the bat of Derek Marler, but Marler later scored on a Laverne error and the Tigers owned a 2-0 advantage after three innings of play.

Ronnie Davis pitched five innings, allowed only four hits and one run to lead the Tigers on the mound, and also shined at the plate as he collected two hits, knocked in two runs and scored the winning run.

Brooks Creel got the win on the mound as he pitched three innings and allowed only two hits.

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ASA umpiring clinics set

Alabama Amateur Softball Association District 7 Commissioner Gene Calhoun has announced that umpire clinics will be held in the district in coming weeks.

The clinics will be held at the Andalusia Recreation Center, in Andalusia, on Sunday, March 23, at 2:00 PM; and at the Charles Henderson High School cafeteria, in Troy, on Saturday, April 12, at 9:00 AM.

AASA registration is \$37, and there will be a rules/mechanics clinic at all testing sites. Rule books and insurance information

will be given out prior to the testing. All ASA umpires must attend one of these clinics, and for more information call District 7 Umpire-In-Chief Jim Golden at 793-7416.

The first meeting and practice for potential cheerleaders will be on April 16, with other practices set for April 17, 21 and 22. All practices will be at the ESJC gym from 4:00 until 5:30.

A mock tryout will be held on April 23, with the actual tryouts set

for 4:00 on April 24. All material that will be used for tryouts, as well as a review of cheerleading techniques, will be taught during the practice sessions.

Female cheerleaders will perform two cheers, one to be performed individually and one in a group; a short dance routine to be performed in small groups; two jumps - a toe touch and an open jump; and one tumbling pass of choice that will be scored on execution and difficulty.

Male cheerleaders will also perform the two cheers; two jumps - a toe touch and a pike; two stunts of choice, using a non-returning ESJC cheerleader as a stunt partner; and one tumbling pass of choice.

For more information, contact ESJC cheerleader sponsor Patsy Chalkers at 393-ESJC, ext. 236.

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Elba Junior Lady Tigers win three of four

The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers opened their softball season last week in impressive fashion as they claimed three wins in four outings to close the week with a 3-1 record.

Following are highlights of all four games:

ELBA 20
N.B. 3

The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers opened the season last Monday

afternoon with a big 20-3 win over New Brockton.

Elba led only 1-0 after one inning; and 4-0 after two frames, but plated four runs in the third inning to grab an 8-0 advantage and pulled away to rip the Gamecocks.

Aubretta Williams got 2 hits, including a home-run, to lead Elba at the plate, while Oneida Davis and Tacara Stoudemire both added 2 hits.

ELBA 13
N.B. 11

Elba scored 10 runs in its final at-bat to rally past New Brockton 13-11.

The Lady Tigers trailed 6-3 after three innings, but combined 8 hits with four errors in the fourth inning to plate 10 runs, and then held on in the bottom of the inning to take the win.

Aubretta Williams and Rashonda

McKinnon both got two hits and ripped home-runs to lead Elba, while Tacara Stoudemire also added 2 hits.

LIVERNE 12
ELBA 8

The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers suffered their first loss of the season as Laverne scored five runs in the second inning to claim a 12-8 win.

The Lady Tigers scored four runs in the fourth inning, and two in the fifth to pull even at 7-7, but saw Laverne rally late to pull away for the win.

Aubretta Williams collected 2 hits, including a home-run, to lead Elba at the plate, while Katie Vaughan and Tyeshia Tyson both added 2 hits.

ELBA 15
LIVERNE 14

The Elba Junior High Lady Tigers scored 10 runs in their final three at-bats to rally and claim a wild 15-14 win over Laverne.

Elba fell behind early and trailed 14-5 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning, but scored six runs in the bottom of the frame to pull within 14-11 and later pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the seventh on a single by Tosha Crawford to claim the win.

Aubretta Williams got 3 hits, including a home-run, to lead Elba at the plate, while Katie Vaughan and Kerri Lawford both added 3 hits, and Tyeshia Tyson, Casey Skinner, Michelle Daniels, Tosha Crawford and Heather Hudson all added 2.

Lady Gamecocks sweep past Purple Cats 16-1, 11-8

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks improved their record to 6-3 Friday afternoon with a 16-1, 11-8 double-header sweep of the Arion Lady Purple Cats.

Crystal Burrows got 3 hits, including a home-run, and collected 3 RBI's to lead the Lady Gamecocks to the easy 16-1 win in the opener, while Lasanta Cole, Cindy Lawson and Nicole Meeks all added 2 hits.

Cindy Lawson and Daphne Perez collected 3 hits each to lead the Lady Gamecocks in the second game, while Leticia Smith and Lasanta Cole chipped in with 2 hits apiece.

New Brockton outscored Georgiana 13-11

The New Brockton Gamecocks posted their second win of the season and moved to 1-0 in Area play Friday afternoon by outscoring the Georgiana Panthers 13-11, in high school baseball action.

Wesley McKinney ripped two home-runs and collected 5 runs-batted-in to lead the Gamecocks' offensive fireworks, while Josh Moore went 4-4 with three RBI's, Jason Cardine allowed only 4 hits in six innings and struck out five to get the mound win.

Kinston Lady Bulldogs place second at Spring Fling

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs competed in the 1A-2A division of the Spring Fling High School Softball Tournament, held recently in Dothan, and claimed three wins to bring home the runner-up trophy in the 10-team event.

The Lady Bulldogs opened the tournament with a 24-4 win over Northview, of Florida. Pam Rodgers and Shannon Wambles both got 3 hits to lead Kinston, while Brandy Chamblie, Suzanne Rhodes and Amanda Hamilton all ripped home-runs.

The Lady Bulldogs remained unbeaten with a 12-9 win over New Brockton. Pam Rodgers, Shannon Wambles, Heather Smith, Kaci Fleming and April Lee all got 2 hits in the win.

Kinston fell into the losers bracket with a 12-9 loss to Houston Academy. Pam Rodgers got 3 hits to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Suzanne Rhodes and Amanda Hamilton both added 2.

The Lady Bulldogs kept their title hopes alive with another 9-8 win over county-rival New Brockton. Brandy Chamblie and Pam Rodgers both got 2 hits to lead Kinston to the win.

The Lady Bulldogs saw their title hopes vanish as they fell to Houston Academy 14-8. Kaci Fleming and Brandy Chamblie both got 2 hits in the loss.

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Class of '97 inducted in State Hall of Fame

An impressive group of 12 of the most significant individuals in the history of prep athletics in Alabama were inducted March 17 into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Over 1,000 attended the seventh annual banquet and induction ceremony at the Montgomery Civic Center in support of the Class of 1997, which included coaches, administrators and a supportive teacher.

The Class of 1997 included:

Susie Dement, a faculty member at Montevallo High School for 50

years; Clendon Gibbs, a basketball coach for 33 years and a football coach for 17 years at Brilliant High School;

James Hardy, a respected coach and teacher in the Lanett City School system for 30 years;

Elizabeth Hatch, the girl's athletic director and physical educational supervisor in the Birmingham City Schools for 19 years;

Ronnie Hauschalter, a coach of 34 years, including 25 years at Fyffe High School;

John Jarmon, who coached track and cross country for 21 years at Mt. Brook High School;

Adrian McKinney, who coached at Tuscaloosa County High School for 38 years with an overall record of 492-335;

Larry Patterson, who coached for 21 years at Susan Moore High School and led his team to 12 playoff appearances;

Max Ray, who was on staff at Hackburg High School for 33 years, as coach and 23 as administrator;

Elliott Speed, who served 18 years as basketball, football and baseball coach at Parrish High School;

Leo Sumner, who served Hale County High School for 18 years, 11 as a coach and seven as principal.

NEW BROCKTON GAMECOCKS
1997 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

March 13	Brantley (2)	4:30	Away
March 14	Georgiana	3:30	Away
March 17	Samson	3:30	Home
March 21	Luverne	4:00	Away
March 27	Zion Chapel	4:00	Elba
March 29	G.W. Long (2)	1:00	Away
April 1	Goshen	3:00	Home
April 8	Goshen	3:00	Away
April 9	Red Level	3:30	LBW
April 12	Coffee County Tournament		
April 15	Luverne	3:30	Home
April 17	Georgiana	3:30	Home
April 21	Houston Acad. (2)	4:30	Away
April 22	Red Level	4:00	Home
April 24	Kinston	4:00	Home

NEW BROCKTON
LADY GAMECOCKS
1997 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

March 13	G.W. Long (1)	4:00	Home
March 14	Ariton (2)	3:30	Away
March 20	Enterprise (2)	5:00	Away
March 21-22	Samson Tourney	TBA	Away
March 24	Kinston (2)	3:30	Home
March 27	Elba (2)	3:30	Away
April 7	Zion Chapel (2)	3:30	Home
April 8	Goshen (2)	3:30	Away
April 10	Straughn (2)	3:30	Away
April 11-12	Elba Tourney	TBA	Elba
April 14	Elba (2)	3:30	Home
April 15	G.W. Long (2)	4:00	Away
April 18	Highland Home (2)	4:00	Home
April 21	Zion Chapel (2)	3:30	Elba
April 22	Samson (2)	3:30	Away
April 24	Kinston (2)	3:30	Away
April 25-26	Lady Gamecock Tournament		
April 28	Highland Home (1)	4:00	Away
April 29	Houston Academy (2)	3:30	Away
May 1	Samson (2)	4:30	Home
May 3	Section Tournament		

ZION CHAPEL LADY REBELS
1997 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

March 20	Samson (2)	4:00	Away
March 25	Ariton (2)	3:30	Away
March 27	Kinston (2)	3:30	Away
April 7	New Brockton (2)	3:30	Away
April 8	Houston Acad. (2)	3:30	Away
April 10	Ariton (2)	4:30	Elba
April 14	Houston Acad. (2)	3:30	Elba
April 15	Kinston (2)	3:30	Elba
April 17	G.W. Long (2)	3:30	Away
April 21	New Brockton (2)	3:30	Elba
April 22	Goshen (2)	3:30	Away
April 24	Elba (2)	3:30	Elba
April 29	Elba (2)	3:30	Elba
May 3	Section Tournament		

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BASEBALL

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FRIDAY, MARCH 21
New Brockton at Laverne (4:00)

MONDAY, MARCH 24
Elba at Brantley (4:30)

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
Rehebeath at Elba (3:30)

Zion Chapel at G.W. Long (6:00)

SOFTBALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
Elba at Kinston (3:30)

New Brockton at Enterprise (5:00)

Zion Chapel at Samson (4:00)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21
Samson Tournament

SATURDAY, MARCH 22
Samson Tournament

MONDAY, MARCH 24
Elba at Samson (4:00)

Kinston at New Brockton (3:30)

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
Elba Jr. at Highland Home (4:00)

Zion Chapel at Ariton (3:30)

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1992 BUICK CENTURY FOR SALE Gray, V-6, 46,500 miles, new tires, one owner. \$6,500. Call 897-2847 after 6:00 p.m. 3-20-3c

THE 10 Million Dollar RV Super Show is back! March 20-23rd, Birmingham Civic Center. Up to \$5,000 cash drawing every hour. 500 live prizes, entertainment, refreshments. Manufacturers, bankers, dealers and appraisers will be here. Save thousands in new and used RVs. Thurs. Sat. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m. Bring the family. 897-5123. 3-20-4c

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THREE 36X36 BROILER HOUSES Located on 11/41-acre on County Road 342. Includes a 3 BR, 2 BA, HOME with 2 car garage, inground pool and workshop. Call Dennis Lee or Sonya Boice at PROGRESS REAL ESTATE/BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS in sec. 308-2500 or 1-800-819-2500. 3-6-4c

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L-R: Crystal Burrows, Angie Laney, Tenisha Tidwell, Justin Hughes, Ashley Laney, Jessica Parks.

Area students compete in STAR events

On Saturday, March 1, 1997, six area high school students competed in the Alabama Association of the Future Homemakers of America State STAR Events. STAR Events is an acronym for Students Taking Action for Recognition. These are competitive events which recognize members for proficiency and achievement in individual and chapter projects, leadership skills and occupational preparation. Students competing from Coffee County included: Jessica Parks, Beef Cookoff Contest, Elba High School; Angie Laney, Reading a Story, Zion Chapel High School; Crystal Burrows, Reading a Story; Tenisha Tidwell, Job Interview.

Mrs. Sasser's 5th grade 4-H Club meets

Mrs. Sasser's 5th grade 4-H meeting was held Jan. 10, beginning at 1:05 p.m. Whitney Liprot and Betsy Adkinson led in singing "America" and "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" and "Jonah McWaters read January's devotionals." Jeremy Eddins, vice-president, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H pledge; Ashley Smith called roll and read minutes of the last meeting. There was no old business. New business included the following: Anna Miller was first-place winner in the woodworking contest with Whitney Liprot placing second. Ashley Smith and Anna Miller received certificates for participating in the Christmas ornament activity. Jeremy Eddins, vice-president, introduced the program for the meeting which was about 4-H record books.

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Accelerated Reader Program offered at Elba Elementary School

At Elba Elementary School Accelerated Reader 25 Point Club members receive a no homework pass and the privilege of having their pictures in *The Elba Clipper*.

At the end of the six weeks, Accelerated Reader 50 Point Club members celebrate with an ice cream sundae party off campus. The fourth six weeks 50 Point Club members celebrated together with Mr. Mickey McCollough, assistant principal, serving ice cream sundaes at the picnic tables across from the superintendent's office.

The 75 Point Club members for the fourth six weeks earned lunch with Mrs. Judy Killingsworth, principal, at Pizza Hut.

Mr. Charles Pearce, superintendent of Elba City Schools, treated the 100 Point Club members with lunch at Pizza Hut. The members chose Pizza Hut as the place they wished to go for lunch.

The 150 Point Club members earned the privilege of being an aide for a half day. These students chose to work in the library with the Book Fair.

Mrs. Joanie Doggett and Mrs. Elaine Martin, librarian and library aide, have been the keys to the great success of the Accelerated Reader Program at Elba Elementary School. They have administered the computer tests and kept records of all students.

SouthTrust introduces home equity loan line campaign

SouthTrust has introduced a home equity line campaign which features one of the lowest interest rates available, same day approval and timely closings, announced Ted Roberts, CEO for SouthTrust Bank.

A home equity line of credit is a revolving line of credit secured by the equity in your home. SouthTrust's home equity line offer includes a low, six-month introductory variable interest rate of 5.99% APR (Wall Street Journal Prime-2.26%). After six months, the regular rate becomes 9.75% APR (Wall Street Journal Prime+1.50%). In addition, customers may qualify for a line up to 100% of the equity in their home, and some cases the interest may be tax deductible.

Applications can be obtained from any SouthTrust Bank office, by phone (1-800-CALL-STB or 1-800-225-5782), by mail or via fax. Completed applications can be submitted at any SouthTrust Bank office, by mail or via fax.

"We are delighted to offer this highly competitive, time-saving and convenient equity line program," said Roberts. "SouthTrust is committed to offering quality products at the highest level of customer service. Whether our equity line customers prefer to apply by phone or fax, by mail or in a branch, SouthTrust can meet that need."

"Homeowners are using their equity lines in a variety of ways including remodeling, bill consolidation, and to finance college tuition," added Roberts.

Customers wishing to request information or make application over the telephone, should call 1-800-CALL-STB (1-800-225-5782) from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Central Time.

MacArthur State President's & Dean's List announced

Seventy-nine students maintained "A" averages during Winter Quarter 1996-97, qualifying them to be listed on the MacArthur State Technical College President's List. Local honorees include: Jake Batchelor, Huey Daniels and Ethel Mae Tillis, all of Elba, AL; Rebecca Dickey of Glenwood, AL; Marshall Edwards, Helen Sanson, Marjorie Sanson, Ashley Simmons, Pamela Thompson, and Diane K. Wilson, all of Kinston, AL.

Seventy-nine students maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or above during Winter Quarter 1996-97, qualifying them to be listed on the MacArthur State Technical College Dean's List. Local honorees include: Michael Cotton and Nancy Woods, both of Elba, AL; Kellie Henderson of Glenwood, AL; Richard Fleming, Casey Grace, Brian Hawthorne, and William Hawthorne, all of Kinston, AL; Jason Edwards and Jamie Lowry, both of New Brockton, AL.

An education is something that can't be taken away from you!

GO FOR IT!!!



25 POINT CLUB MEMBERS... Pictured above are the 25 Point Club members. They are Blake Brunson, Kim Bess, Karrie Copeland, Rashad Robinson, Slawnda Whitfield, Christy Eubanks, Ryan Gibbs, Marquize Tyson, Duke Carr, Britney Clark, Josh Burke, Kristi Spinks, Ricky Marler, Laina Mack, Dustin Rhoades, Todd Kelley, Brandy Kelley, Matthew Curran, Richard Barlow, Shawna Hill, Amanda Richardson, Denise Ware, Taylor McGuire, April Burks, Jennifer Grissett, Doug Turnbull, Reese Stricklin, Will Barnes, Jennifer Smith, and Ashleigh Waddell.



50 POINT CLUB MEMBERS... Pictured above are the 50 Point Club members. They are Christopher Brunson, Michael Bryan, Colby Skinner, Larry Conely, Katrina Farris, Zach Praytor, Justin Allen, Timothy Jackson, Chris Bryant, Ralston Moore, Justin Hall, Summer McDonald, Anthony Parrish, Mary Katherine Head, Aaron Harrellson, and Lewis Johnson.

Senior citizens still receive tuition waivers at ESJC

Enterprise State Junior College's Senior Adult Scholarship Program is still active.

This special program automatically waives tuition for college credit courses for any student who is 60 years of age or older, and who meets the admission standards of the college and program.

To be admitted to the college, interested persons must have a high school diploma or a GED Certificate of High School completion. An interested person must pick up an Admissions Application form and Request for Transcripts form from the Admissions Office in the Administration Building, or call 334/393-ESJC, Ext. 234.

After completion, the Admissions Application form must be returned to the Admissions Office. The Request for Transcripts form should be mailed to the high school attended or to all colleges previously attended.

Finally, the Guidance Services Office must be contacted at Ext. 295, concerning the ASSET Placement Test. Purpose of this exam is to insure students are not under- or over-challenged in reading, English, and math skills.

The Senior Adult Scholarships apply only to credit courses in which space is available and only to tuition, not fees nor books and supplies. Senior citizens granted a tuition waiver under this program may receive the waiver only one time per course.

Spring Quarter classes begin March 25, so anyone 60 years of age or older who is interested in taking credit courses at ESJC should be admitted and registered now. For more information call 334/393-ESJC, Ext. 234.

NEW AMONG OUR SERVICE FOLKS

AMY D. FARRIS

Air Force Airman Amy D. Farris has graduated from the physical therapy apprentice course at Shepherd Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Farris is the daughter of John B. and Grace C. Farris of Elba, AL. She is a 1992 graduate of New Brockton High School.

BE CAREFUL!



75 POINT CLUB MEMBERS... Pictured above are the 75 Point Club Members. They are Lanzo Cooks, Michael Conely, Brandon Behrens, Emily Paul, Joseph Chandler, and Colby Skinner.



100 POINT CLUB MEMBERS... Pictured above are the 100 Point Club Members. They are: Front Row, L-R: Justin Watkins, Casey Medlock, Joseph Chandler; Back Row, L-R: Deann Smith, Brandon Petty, Colby Capps, Julian Coleman (Not pictured - Carla Roberts)



150 POINT CLUB MEMBERS... Pictured above are the 150 Point Club Members. They are Bart Barnes, Sheena Flowers, Freddy Mallory, Carla Roberts, Billy Gibson, and Elizabeth Farris.

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Have A Happy Easter

The Elba Clipper

VOLUME 100, NUMBER 42

50 CENTS

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1997

1 SECTION, 14 PAGES

Elba City Council rejects street sweeper bids

by Ferrin Cox
Publisher

The Elba City Council on Monday night lasted about an hour. The only item causing any discussion was the already once delayed letting of bids on a new street sweeper. Approved was an increased health insurance premium, a zoning board appointment, a paving contract, leasing some old school property and approving a list of volunteer firemen.

The city clerk also updated council members on the status of ongoing projects and Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reviewed police department actions for the past two weeks.

Council members heard Mayor James Grimes report on negotiations with the two street sweeper bidders. He recommended the council approve the bid of Sanson Equipment Co. for an Elgin sweeper at a cost of \$71,064. The other bidder, Truck Equipment Co. bid \$71,606 on a Johnson sweeper.

The new bid figures were after removal of several items, including one or two specified in the bid request.

After Council member John Sharpless questioned the legality of the action in light of the changes,

City Attorney Jeff Kelley recommended the city reject both bids and start over.

The council quickly agreed. City Clerk Donnie Morrow proposed that each company demonstrate their equipment in Elba before the next bid opening. They agreed.

The mayor reported on his efforts to lower the proposed increase in employee health insurance premiums. He noted that with minor changes the proposed \$19,687 increase had been reduced to \$13,488 - a drop of \$6,199. Two-thirds of this is paid by the city and the balance by the employee.

Changes in the insurance package include increasing the major medical threshold from \$200 to \$300; eliminating the 4th quarter carry-over and increasing the outpatient co-pay from \$50 to \$75.

The council accepted a recommendation by the mayor and unanimously voted to appoint Joyce Coleman to the Planning & Zoning Board. She will fill an unexpected term created by the resignation last year of Lamar Kelley.

Jackie Dodge addressed the council concerning a request to lease land behind the Junior High wing of the former high school to construct an arena to host horse shows. They also want one room in the building as a clubhouse house. Hodge is president of the South Alabama Horse Association. He noted they would be providing wholesome family entertainment.

The council agreed for the mayor and city clerk to work out a lease agreement, assuming the property is no longer needed by the recreation department. Any agreement must then be presented back to the city council for final approval.

Grimes explained to the council that the Workmen Comp. Insurance company wanted a formal approval from the city council on an approved list of volunteer firemen. He explained that the firemen were already covered by workmen's comp, but the company needed this record in the minutes.

Police Chief Whitworth showed

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Grimes explained to the council that the Workmen Comp. Insurance company wanted a formal approval from the city council on an approved list of volunteer firemen. He explained that the firemen were already covered by workmen's comp, but the company needed this record in the minutes.

Police Chief Whitworth showed

council members a drawing of the new police emblem. They approved the concept and were told it would be used as the uniform patch and on the police cars.

The department, which answered 29 complaints and made 27 arrests, also responded to two 44 mm grenade launcher rounds found at the intersection of Jones and Reynolds Street.

The chief said the two shells were in his office, awaiting pick-up by Ft. Rucker officials.

At the request of Whitworth, and with the mayor's recommendation, the council approved a new contract/grant request with the 12th District Drug Task Force. This will be with 7525 matching federal funds. Whitworth said the city will be receiving \$563.94 (base rate for the remainder of the year) to fund three mobile phones for the County Extension Office.

Please See CITY, Page 14



1997 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICERS... Pictured above are the 1997 officers for the Elba Chamber of Commerce. They are (L-R): seated - Barbara Hudson, Executive Director of the Chamber and Melba Hollinghead, president; standing - Gary Allen, 1st vice president, Betsy Brunson, secretary; Kenneth Calhoun, treasurer; and Jerry Kelley, 1st vice president.

County Commission signs garbage contract

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

The majority of Monday's meeting of the Coffee County Commission was routine - opening and awarding bids.

Commissioners awarded the bid for collecting the county's garbage to Mark Dunning Industries, Inc. of Dothan, AL.

This bid was tabled from the March 10th meeting in order to allow the landfill committee to review the bids received.

Dunning's bid was low at \$8.23 per month per household in the county. Commission Chairman Tom Grimsley noted that county residents are currently paying \$8.98 per month with option in the present contract for yearly increases.

Grimsley stated that the Dunning bid of \$8.23 will remain constant (no increase) for three years.

"I think we have come up with a real good contract and I would like to commend our landfill committee for working on this and putting this contract together," said Grimsley. "I think our residents will be real pleased with this new contract."

The commission voted unanimously to sign the three-year contract which will become effective October 1, 1997.

During the discussion of the motion to accept the bid, Commissioner Bernest Brooks asked if there was a provision for ending this contract should the county decide to collect its own garbage.

The county's attorney, Kenneth Fuller, responded to Brooks' question with, "This contract is for three years."

The bid for pipe for the county highway department was awarded to Choctaw Incorporated of Montgomery, AL. Their bid total on bituminous coated steel pipe was \$16,880.66, and on galvanized steel, it was \$6,058.30.

The only bids received on the undergarment repair on two county dozers, a D6H and D8N, were from Tractor & Equipment Company of

Montgomery. The bid for the repairs on the D8N was \$23,165.64 while the bid on the D6H was \$19,777.85.

After being reviewed by the county engineering department, the bids were tabled due to some inconsistencies found in the bids.

An item of business which drew several minutes of discussion was the hiring of a maintenance supervisor for the county.

Chairman Grimsley requested that a resolution be passed by the commission giving him the authority, as chairman, to appoint a committee to screen the applicants for the job. More than thirty individuals have applied for the job.

The resolution specified that the applicants be screened down by the committee, to a minimum of three individuals and no more than five. These would then be presented to the commission for interviewing and final selection.

Commissioner Brooks made the motion that the chairman's requested resolution be passed.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to amend Brooks' motion specifying that all seven commissioners be on the screening committee.

During the discussion of the motion amendment, Stephens commented, "I think we've all worked together in making these selections...I think that is what the people elected

us for." Commissioner Brooks questioned the county on the legality of the screening committee. Attorney Fuller responded, "That's a discretionary decision Mr. Brooks. There's nothing illegal about it. The commission can approach it any way they want to. Elba's way will be fine."

Stephens' motion to amend the original motion failed in a 3-4 vote. Commissioners Grimsley, Brooks, Doug Dalrymple and Len Averett

opposed it while Stephens, Linda Westbrook and Kayo Lewis voted in favor of it.

The original motion passed with the vote being reversed.

Chairman Grimsley commented after the meeting had adjourned that the screening committee would have 3 possibly 4 members. He did not say who would be on the committee.

Please See CCC, Page 14

Elba pageants set for April

Four Elba pageants are coming up for April, to be held at Elba High School auditorium.

Added to Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Elba will be Future Little Miss Elba.

Future Little Miss and Little Miss pageants will be held Friday, April 18, beginning at 7 p.m.

Requirements for Future Little Miss Elba are that contestants will be 4 or 5 years old and not yet entered first grade. Attire will be Sunday dress. Registration deadline for Future Little Miss Elba is April 8.

Registration forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce office (City Hall), the elementary school office and various day care offices. No registration fee is required.

Enclosing the Future Little Miss and Little Miss Elba pageants will be the reigning Miss Alabama, Alison McCreary. Miss McCreary will also perform at these two pageants.

Miss McCreary was third runner-up in the Miss America pageant. She is a graduate of Coffee High



Alison McCreary MISS ALABAMA 1996

Please See MISS, Page 14

** HAPPENINGS **

COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE. The Westside Baptist Men will host the annual Community Easter Sunrise Service on March 28, 1997 at 5:30 a.m. Breakfast will be served following the service. The speaker for the service this year will be Rev. Marvin Ennis, pastor of Elba United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to attend the service and breakfast.

AUTOGRAPH SESSION. Elba native author Bob Imman will be in Elba Saturday afternoon, March 29, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock at Whitman Drug to sign his new book "Dairy Queen Days."

LITTLE MISS ELBA PAGEANT. The Little Miss Elba Pageant is scheduled for Friday, April 18, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elba High School Auditorium. Alison McCreary, Miss Alabama 1996, will be emcee and also provide entertainment. Little Miss Peanut 1996 Kelli Calhoun will also be performing at the pageant. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 8. Registration forms are available at the Elba Elementary School Office and at the Elba Chamber of Commerce. For additional information call the Chamber Office at 897-3125.

MISS & JR. MISS ELBA PAGEANT. The Miss and Junior Miss Elba Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elba High School Auditorium. Carrie Johnson, of WSAF-TV's "Today in Alabama" will emcee the event. Rob and Kelly Hudson of Nashville will be providing entertainment. Deadline for registration is Monday, April 7. Registration forms are available at the Elba High School Office and at the Elba Chamber of Commerce. For additional information call the Chamber Office at 897-3125.

Please See CCSSO, Page 14

Meet Your Elba Police Officers

Meet Police Officer Sgt. Doug Weeks. Doug has been a member of the Elba Police Department for the past 3-1/2 years.

Sgt. Weeks presently works in the patrol division of the department.

Prior to joining the Elba Police Department, Doug worked with the Opp Police Department and with the police department in Tallahassee, Florida.

Weeks has received certification in law enforcement in both Alabama and Florida. He has special training in narcotics, sex related crimes, alcohol and property crimes, traffic radar, automatic weapons and has been certified as a police instructor.

Doug strives to enforce the law equally for everyone and likes the thought of protecting and serving the public.

One of his most memorable experiences as a policeman was apprehending a wanted fugitive (wanted for murder) along with approximately \$200,000.00 worth of drugs.

Sgt. Weeks would like to see more training for police officers, more equipment, and an increase in salaries and opportunities. For Elba, he would like to see more chain businesses in the area and additional recreational opportunities.



Doug's hobbies are scuba diving, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. Sgt. Weeks' wife, Ida, has also served in law enforcement. They have an 8-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. "I enjoy my position with the Elba Police Department, and look forward to more opportunities and professional aspects with this department," said Sgt. Weeks. "It seems to be growing."